

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 177978  
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:JHLEWIS/NEA/AFN:JKBISHOP:JZ  
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S/S-O RCASTRODALE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177978

EXDIS - LUXEMBOURG FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE FROM HARROP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MR

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT MOUSTAPHA OULD  
MAHAMED -ALEK

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1923

1. THE U.S. FAVORS A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE WESTERN  
SAHARA CONFLICT. WE HOPE SALEK'S EFFORTS TO ARRANGE A  
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT  
BELIEVE IT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR INTERESTS OR WITH  
OUR RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO FOR THE U.S. TO PROPOSE A PEACE  
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SETTLEMENT FORMULA OR FOR THE U.S. TO INFORM THE MOROCCANS  
THAT THE NEW MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT WANTS AN EARLY END TO  
THE WAR. OBVIOUSLY, THE MAURITANIANS CAN COMMUNICATE  
DIRECTLY WITH THE MOROCCANS. OTHER STATES E.G., THE  
FRENCH, WHO HAVE INFORMED US THEY HAVE DESIGNED PEACE  
PROPOSALS, ARE BETTER PLACED TO SERVE AS INTERMEDIARY  
BETWEEN THE MAURITANIANS AND THE MOROCCANS, SHOULD THE

MAURITANIANS BELIEVE AN INTERMEDIARY IS NECESSARY.

2. WITH RESPECT TO ALGERIA, THE POLISARIO'S PROVISIONAL CEASEFIRE SUGGESTS AN ALGERIAN/POLISARIO RECEPTIVITY TO A PEACE PROPOSAL. AGAIN, WE FEEL IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE U.S. TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARY AND THAT OTHERS ARE BETTER QUALIFIED TO EXERCISE THIS OFFICE.

3. YOU SHOULD SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME AND CONVEY TO HIM THE FOLLOWING:

-- THE U.S. IS INTERESTED IN CONTINUING ITS GOOD RELATIONS WITH MAURITANIA.

-- THE U.S. CONTINUES TO BE INTERESTED IN MAURITANIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WE ARE FOLLOWING THE SITUATION CLOSELY.

-- WE ARE INTERESTED IN ALL WAYS THAT WE CAN IMPROVE OUR ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION.

4. REGARDING MAURITANIA'S REQUEST THAT WE BE AN EMISSARY TO MOROCCO AND ALGERIA, YOU SHOULD INFORM PRESIDENT SALEK THAT THE U.S. WOULD LIKE TO SEE A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT BUT WE BELIEVE THERE ARE OTHERS WITH CLOSER TRADITIONAL RELATIONS WITH MAURITANIA, CONFIDENTIAL

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MOROCCO AND ALGERIA THAT ARE BETTER SUITED TO TAKE THE INITIATIVES SUGGESTED. FURTHERMORE, FOR THE U.S. TO ASSUME AN EMISSARY ROLE ON BEHALF OF MAURITANIA WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN THIS DISPUTE. 'OWEVER, THE MAURITANIANS CAN EXPECT U.S. SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. PRESIDENT SALEK MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF UN MEDIATION, WHICH WE WOULD ALSO SUPPORT.

5. PLEASE REPEAT SALEK'S REACTIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 14 jul 1978  
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**Subject:** MEETING WITH MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT MOUSTAPHA OULD MAHAMED -ALEK  
**TAGS:** PINT, MR, US, (MOUSTAPHA)  
**To:** NOUAKCHOTT  
**Type:** TE  
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